Committee for Development Policy
United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
Development Policy and Analysis Division

CDP

Launching of the
Handbook on the LDC category
and
LDC 2015 Country Snapshots

Briefing

New York, November 19th 2015

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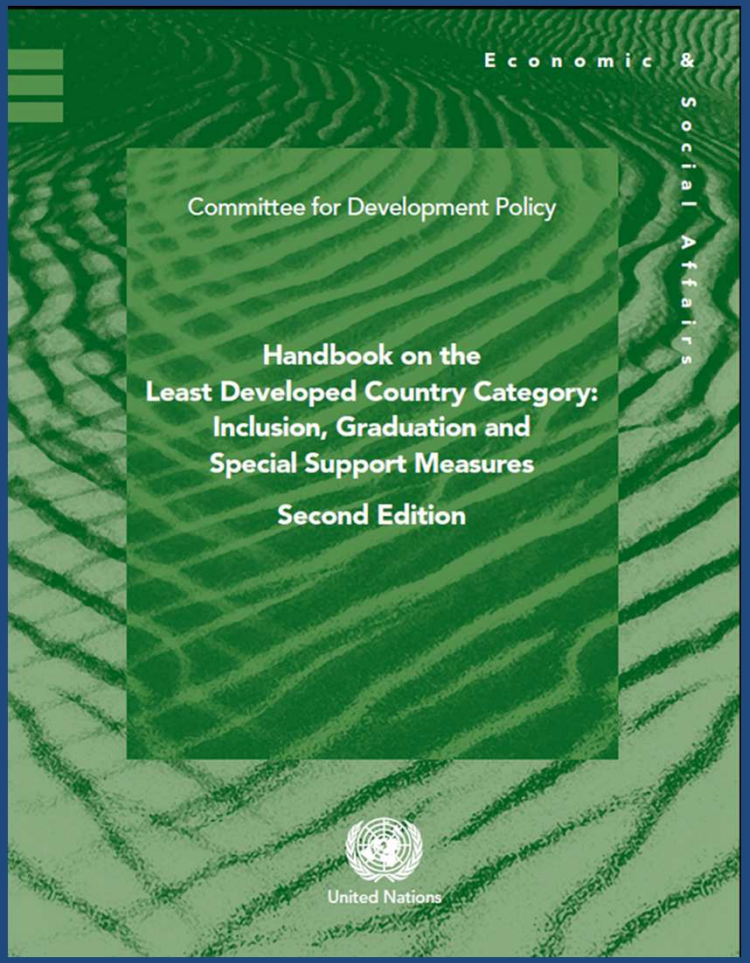
Committee for Development Policy
UN-DESA

Structure

1. Purpose of the publications
2. The LDC category
3. The LDC criteria
4. International support measures for LDCs

Purpose of the publications

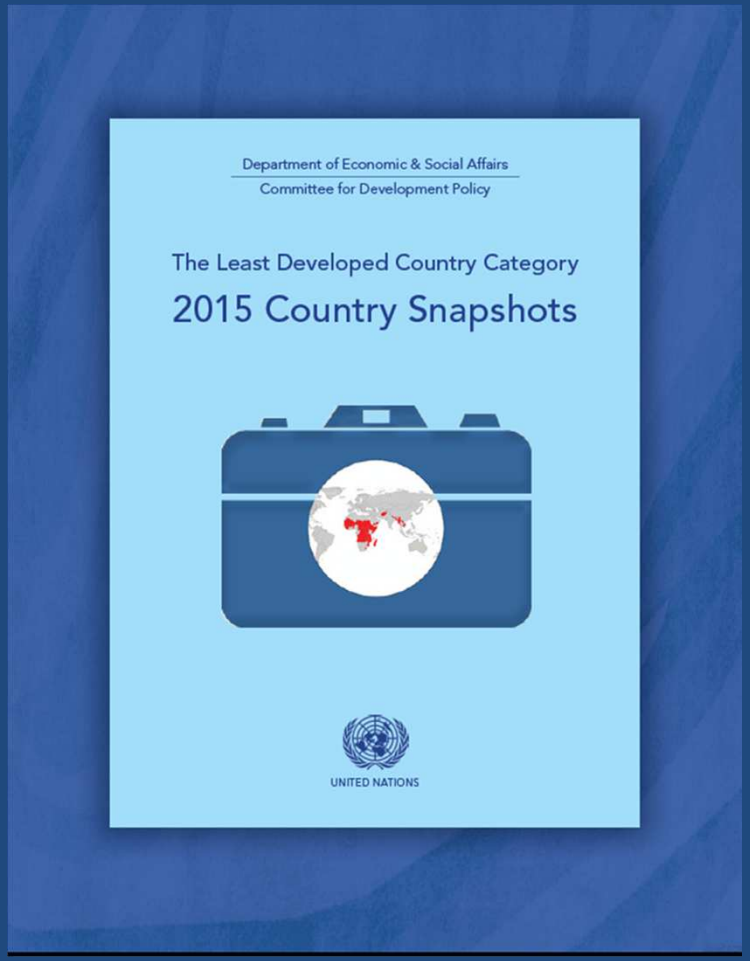
- Information dissemination (E/1998/ 46)
- Promote greater transparency
- Improve access to technical information
- Increase awareness of the LDC category:
  - Facts, methodologies and processes
  - Greater use of LDC-specific support measures
  - Preparation for graduation



- Updates previous version (2008)
- Methodological changes
- Smooth transition and monitoring provisions
- French version coming up soon

✓ Also available from CDP website:

- http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/cdp/cdp_ldcs_handbook.shtml



- Individual country information
- 2015 Triennial review
- Criteria indicators
- Available in two formats:
  - Category: 48 countries
  - Individual snapshots

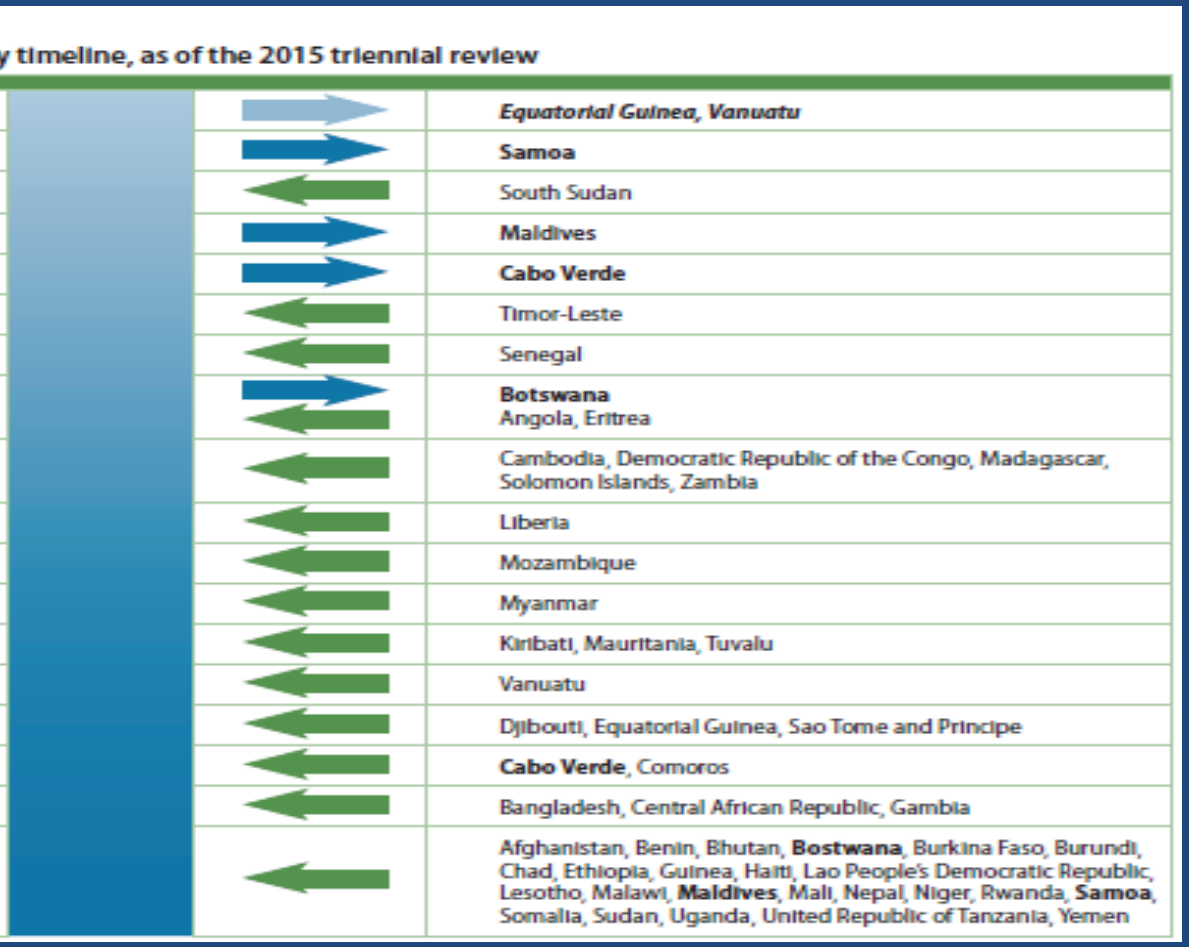
http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/cdp/cdp_ldcs_countryfacts.shtml

The LDC category

- ➔ Countries consistently lagging behind
- ➔ Special measures for catching up, beyond what available for other developing countries
- ➔ Main challenges:
  - low income and lack of financial resources
  - Limited or absent manufacturing base; limited participation in international trade besides commodities
  - Low level of human capital
- ✓ Created in 1971: 25 countries

Currently: 48 countries are LDCs

Figure I.3
LDC category timeline, as of the 2015 triennial review



2017	***Equatorial Guinea, Vanuatu***
2014	**Samoa**
2012	South Sudan
2011	**Maldives**
2007	**Cabo Verde**
2003	Timor-Leste
2000	Senegal
1994	**Botswana** Angola, Eritrea
1991	Cambodia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Madagascar, Solomon Islands, Zambia
1990	Liberia
1988	Mozambique
1987	Myanmar
1986	Kiribati, Mauritania, Tuvalu
1985	Vanuatu
1982	Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Sao Tome and Principe
1977	**Cabo Verde**, Comoros
1975	Bangladesh, Central African Republic, Gambia
1971	Afghanistan, Benin, Bhutan, **Bostwana**, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Chad, Ethiopia, Guinea, Haiti, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Malawi, **Maldives**, Mali, Nepal, Niger, Rwanda, **Samoa**, Somalia, Sudan, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Yemen

➔ 2 additional countries recommended for graduation by CDP

➔ 6 countries will be considered by the CDP for graduation in 2018

Graduation procedures

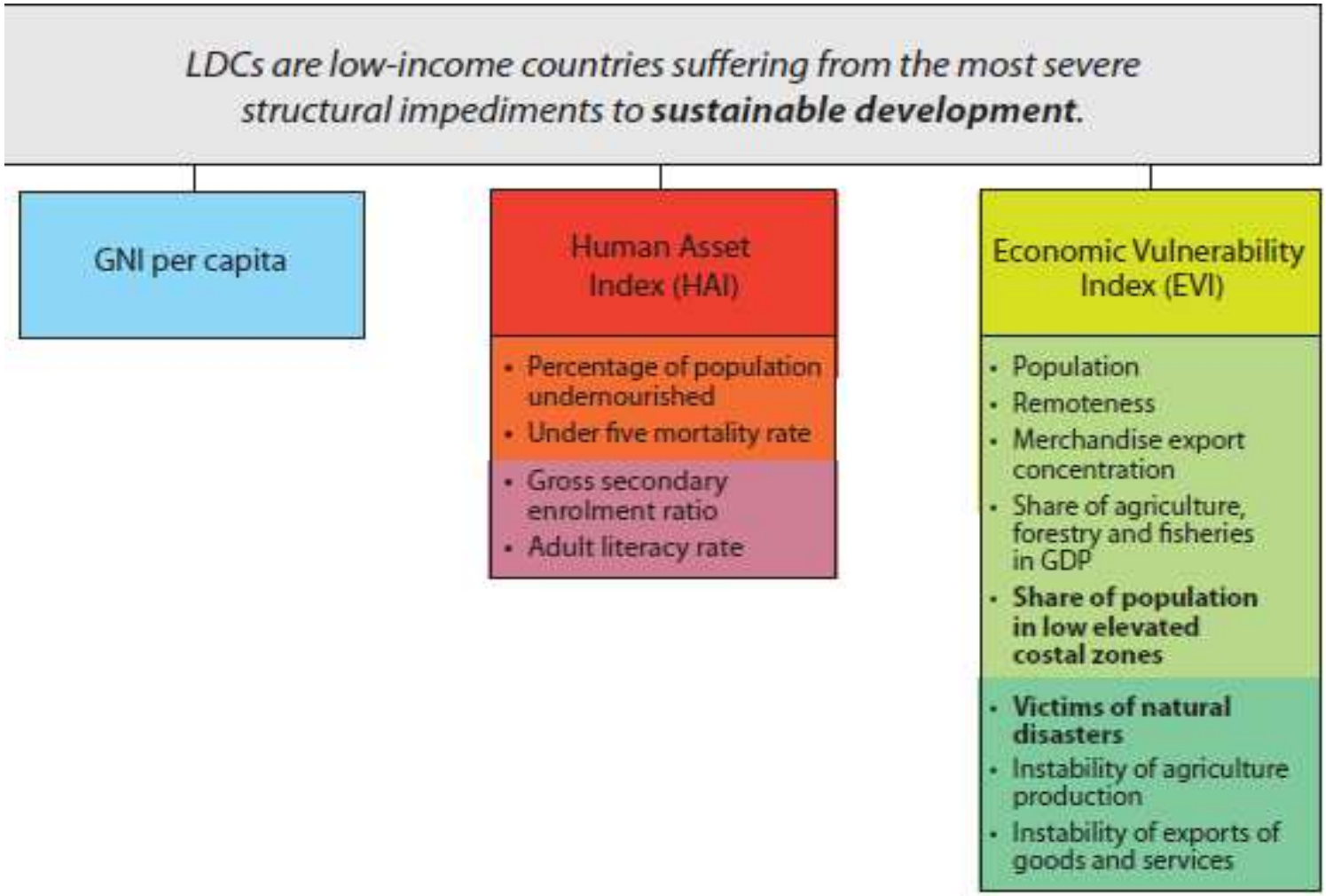
- Multi-stage process
- Multiple actors
- Based on rigorous methodology
- Objective: no county to fall back into the category

Figure I.4
Graduation time frame

Year 0 (first triennial review)	**CDP** Finds country eligible (first finding)
	DESA Notifies country
Between years 0 and 3	**UNCTAD** Prepares vulnerability profile **DESA** Prepares ex ante impact assessment (both reports circulated to country for comments)
Year 3 (second triennial review)	**Graduating country** Oral presentation at preparatory EGM; written statement to CDP plenary (both voluntary)
	CDP Confirms eligibility criteria (second finding); reviews reports and country inputs; recommends graduation
	ECOSOC Takes action on CDP recommendation
	General Assembly Takes note of CDP recommendation
Between years 3 and 6	**Graduating country** Establishes consultative mechanism; prepares transition strategy; reports to CDP on preparation of strategy (voluntary)
	UNDP Facilitates consultative group; provides support (if requested)
	UN system Provides targeted assistance and capacity-building (if requested)
	Development and trading partners Participate in consultative mechanism
	CDP Monitors development progress during the period, reports to the Council
Year 6	**Graduation becomes effective**
After year 6	**Graduated country** Implements and monitors transition strategy; voluntarily submits concise annual reports (for the first 3 years after graduation) and triennial reports to CDP (at 2 CDP triennial reviews)
	Development and trading partners Support implementation of transition strategy; no abrupt reduction of LDC-specific support
	CDP Monitors development progress; reports to the Council annually for the first 3 years after graduation, during 2 triennial reviews thereafter

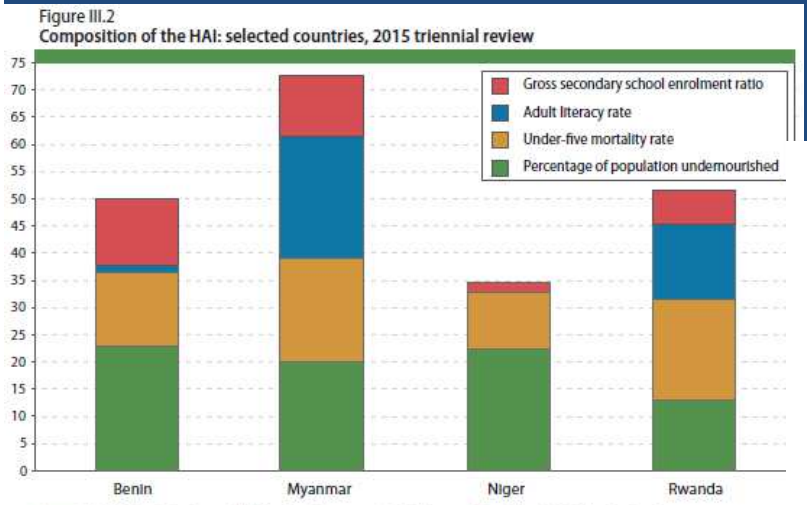
Source: Report of the Committee for Development Policy on the fifteenth session (18-22 March 2013), *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2013, Supplement No. 13* (E/2013/33); and General Assembly resolution 67/221 of 21 December 2012.

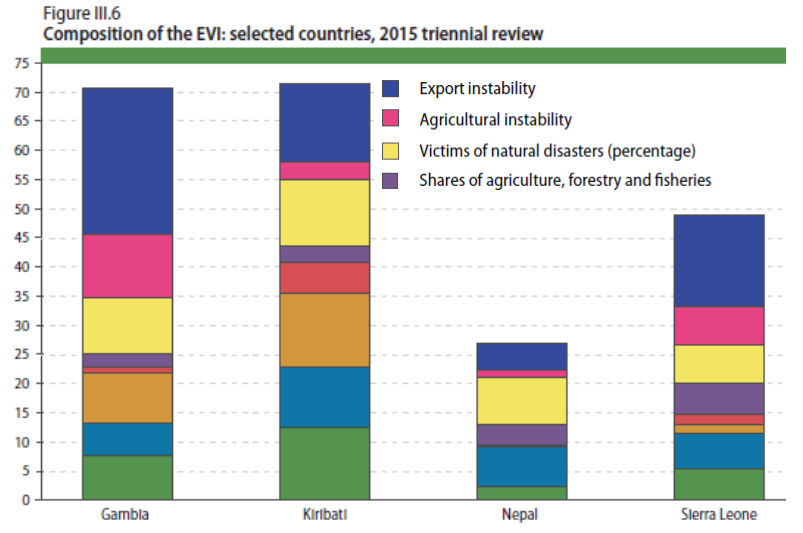
LDC criteria and indicators

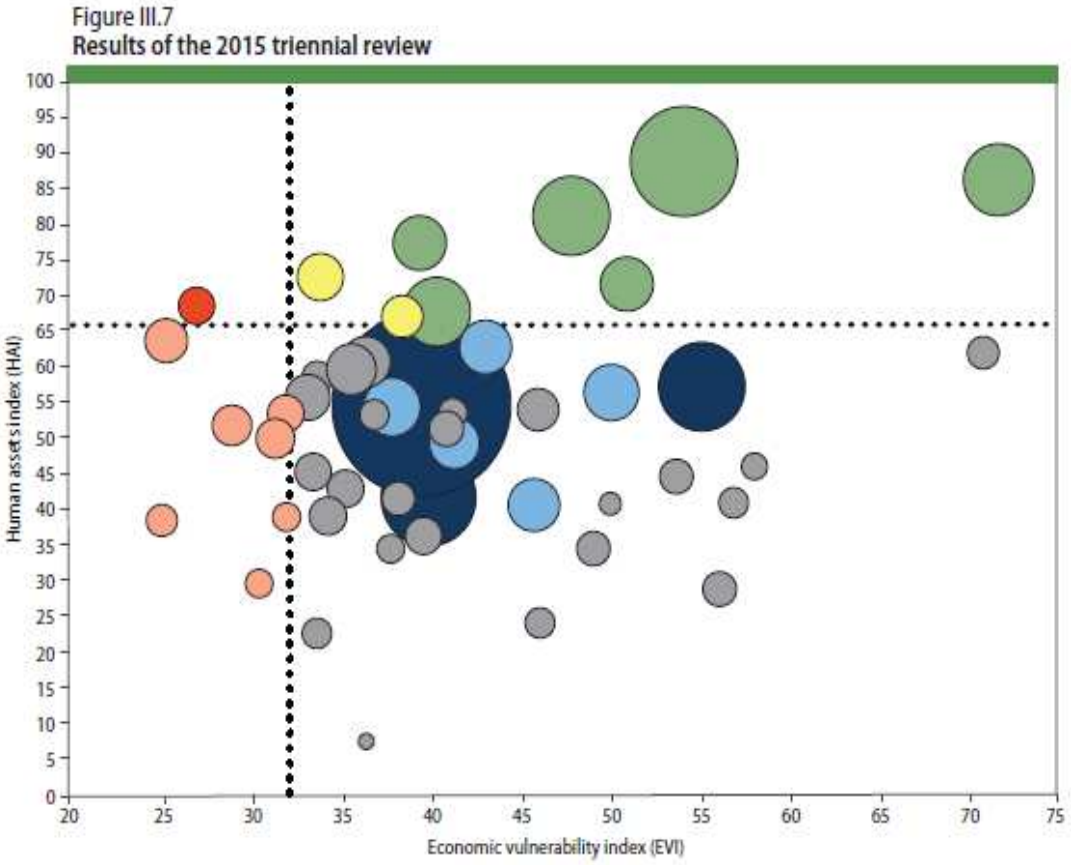


LDC criteria in the Handbook

- ➔Data sources
- ➔Methodologies
- ➔Sample calculations
- ➔Visualizations

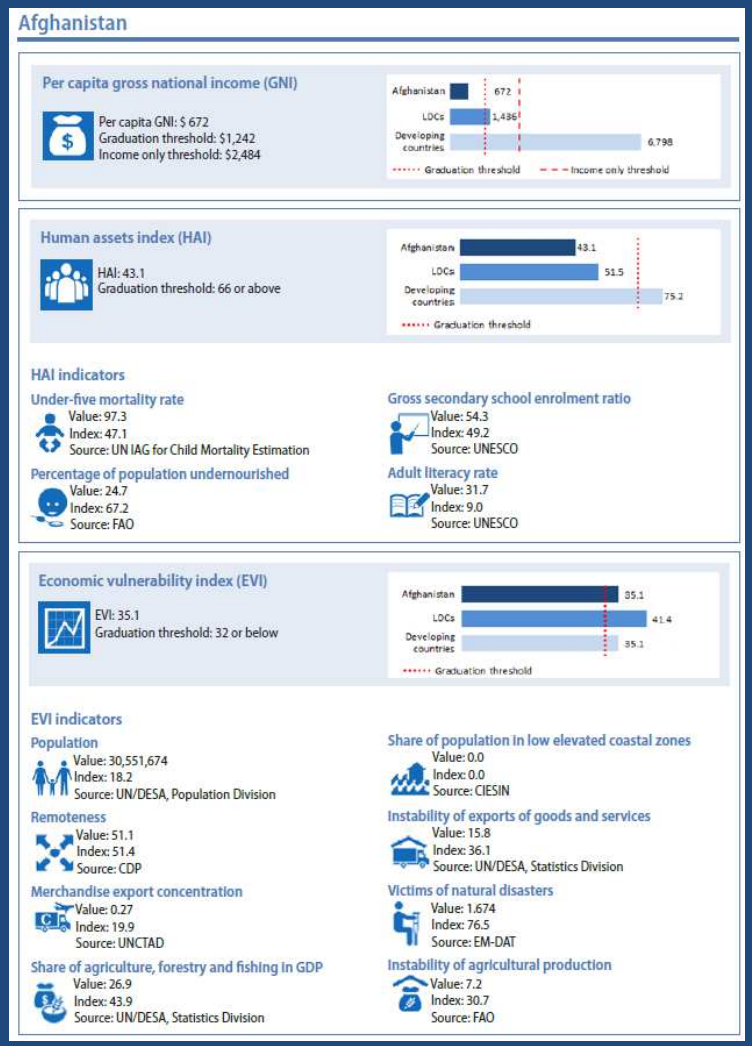


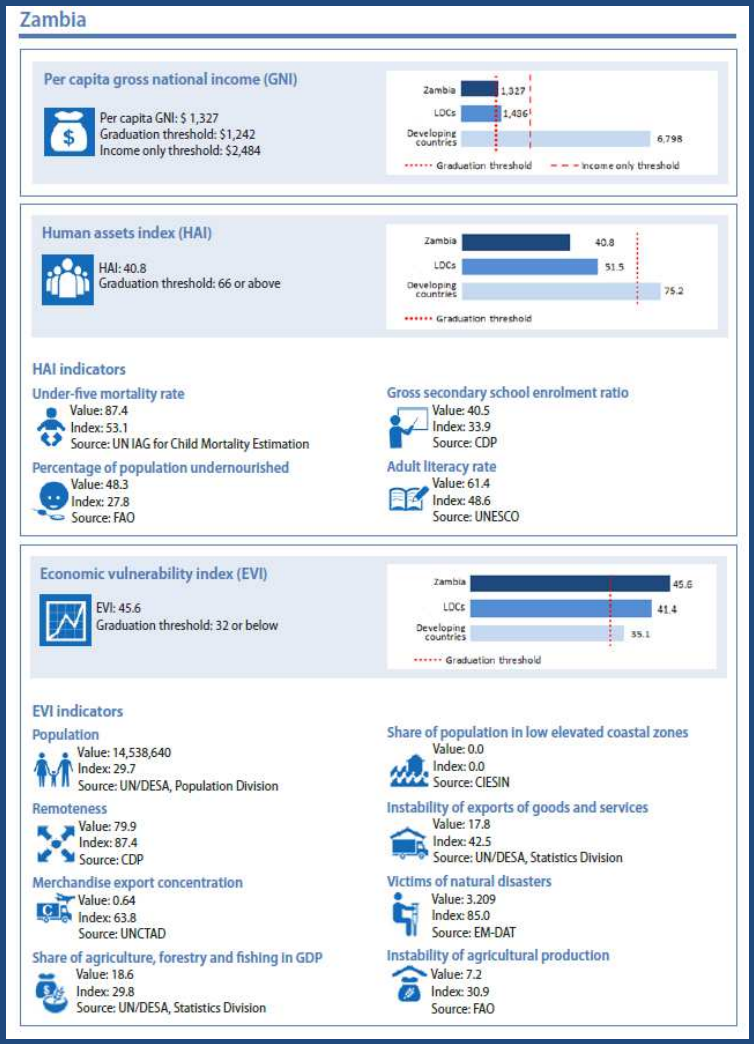




Country snapshots

- ➔ One page summaries of 2015 review for all LDCs
- ➔ Position in relation to graduation thresholds



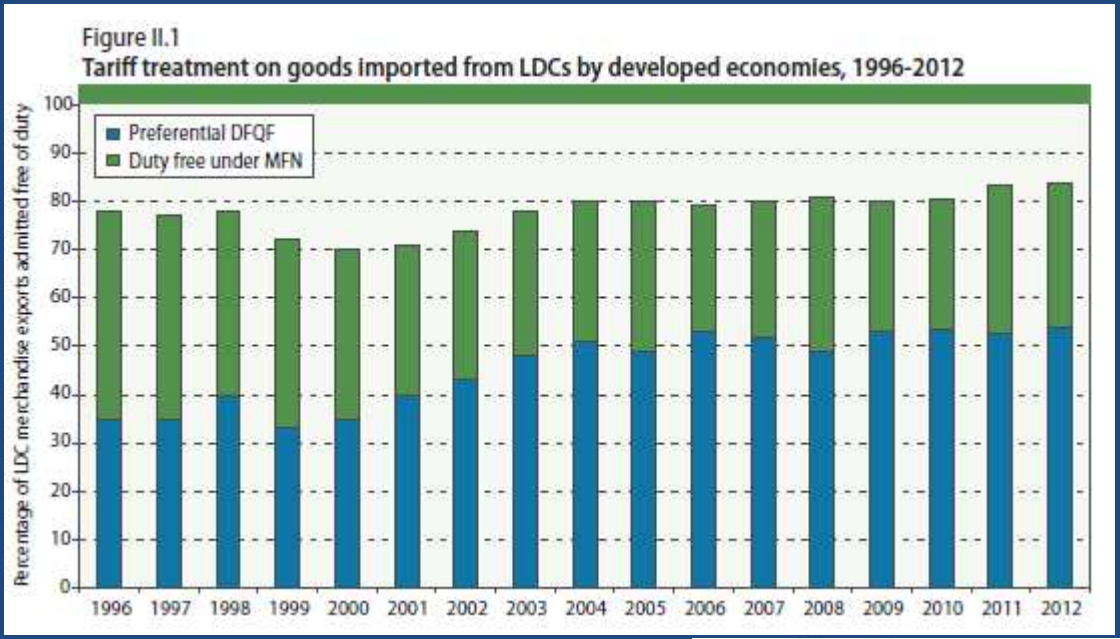


International support measures

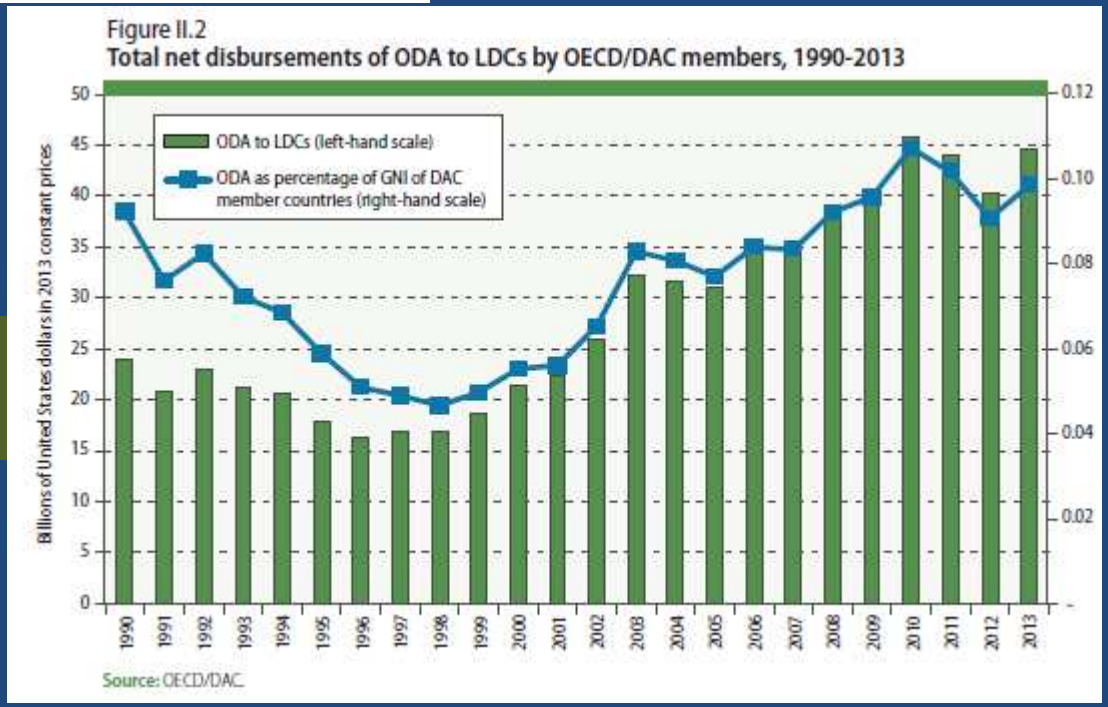
- Development assistance
- International trade
- General support

[Smooth transition provisions]

International trade



Official development assistance



International Support measures

Support Measures Portal for Least Developed Countries

Home | Trade | Development Assistance | General Support | Find a support measure | Learn more

Improving Access to Support Measures

This Portal gives users access to information about special international support measures (ISMs) adopted by the international development community for countries included in the LDC category. ISMs are meant to assist LDCs in confronting their special development challenges and in achieving progress towards graduation from the category. The measures can be grouped into 3 broad areas of assistance:

Trade

International support measures from development partners related to international trade.

go to Trade »

Development

Support measures related to the volume and quality of Official Development Assistance.

go to Development »

General Support

Other support measures such as dedicated travel funds and caps on contributions to the UN.

go to General Support »

New! Coverage

SPOTLIGHT: EIF success stories - lessons learned
Several reports have reviewed the impact of EIF projects. Most of these studies give valuable...

Jonathan Werner, Coordinator EIF Secretariat
Jonathan Werner - Coordinator at the Enhanced Integrated Framework at the WTO. Mr.

New! Coverage

LDCF Background and Experience
The LDCF was proposed at the 7th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC in...

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
UNDP gives particular attention to the development challenges of LDCs through earmarking a...

New! Coverage

United Nations Office of the High Representative for the LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS (UN-OHRLLS)
OHRLLS was established on the recommendation of the Secretary-General of the UN by the GA in its...

Briefing LDC Portal to New York based Delegates
On Thursday 15 November the

Latest stories

- **Bangladesh' exports to Canada: the importance of flexible rules of origin***
  The Canadian GSP scheme for the LDCs was revised in 2002 when almost all tradable items were made...

- **LDCF Background and Experience**
  The LDCF was proposed at the 7th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC in...

more »

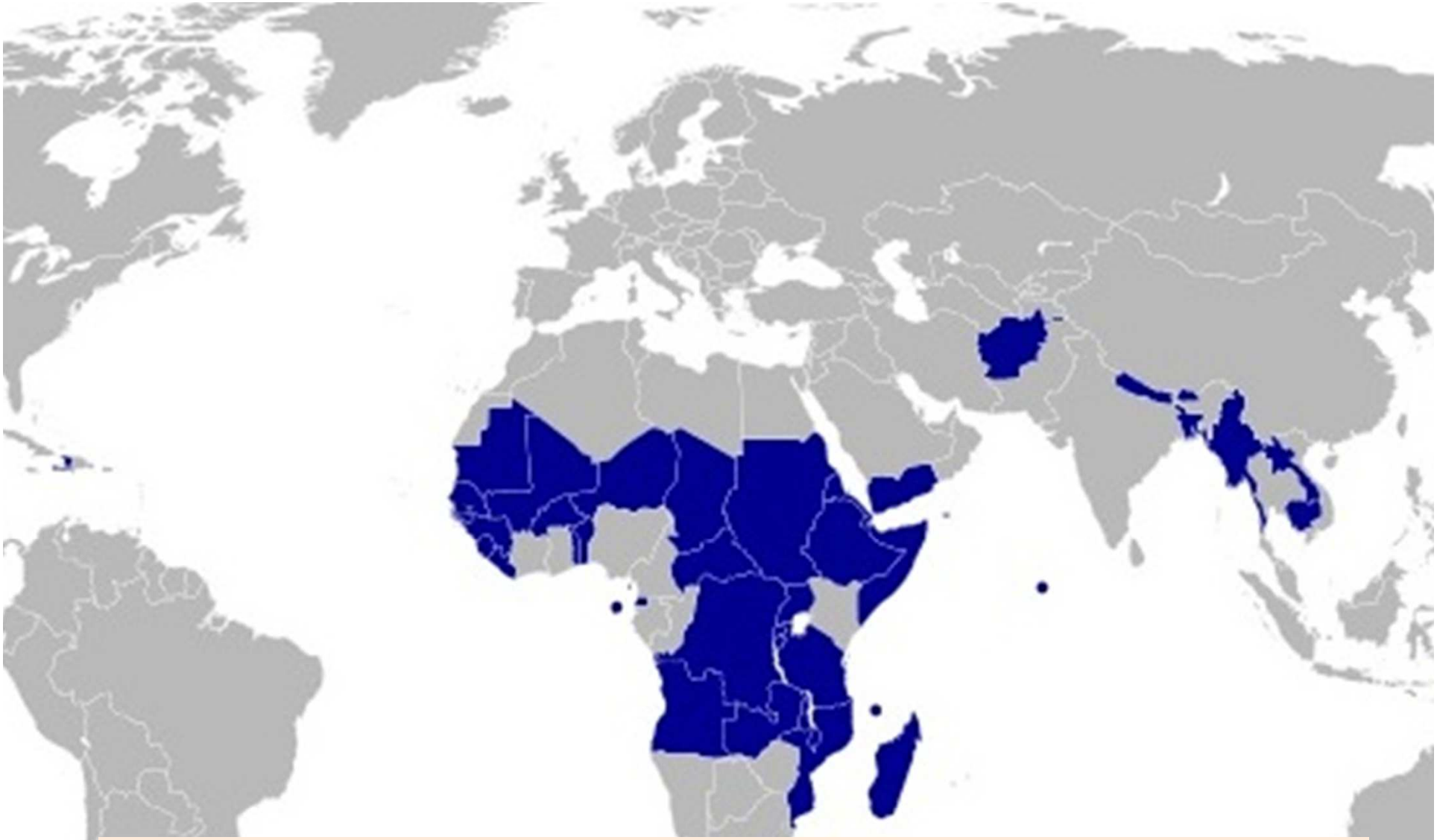
Latest news

- **LDCs request indefinite extension of TRIPS transition periods**
  At the meeting of the WTO Council on TRIPS which took place in Geneva on 6 -7 November 2012,...

- **Briefing LDC Portal to New York based Delegates**
  On Thursday 15 November the CDP Secretariat will organize a briefing for delegates to present the...

more »

WWW.UN.ORG/LDCPORTAL



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:
WWW.UN.ORG/EN/DEVELOPMENT/DESA/POLICY/CDP/INDEX